



ROBERT RYANS
Director

COMMUNITY AND SENIOR SERVICES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 5, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
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From: Robert Ryans, Director 

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF KINSHIP CARE COLLABORATION PROJECT
WITH DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

BACKGROUND

On February 13, 2001, in anticipation of a new Federal funding allocation to Area Agencies on Aging to implement Title III-E of the Older Americans Act, the National Family Caregiver Support Act, your Board instructed the Directors of Community and Senior Services / Area Agency on Aging (CSS / AAA), and Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a collaborative kinship project to serve relative caregivers. This memorandum provides information on the plans for implementing that collaborative project.

Several restrictions guide the design of the collaborative project between CSS and DCFS. First, Title III-E states that a maximum of 10% of the program funding may be spent for services to kinship or relative caregivers. In addition, the funds must be spent on relative caregivers who are age 60 or older and serve as the primary caregiver to a child under age 19 who is related by blood or marriage. Further, the funding has been allocated to serve clients in the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging planning and service area (PSA 19), which excludes the City of Los Angeles.

IMPLEMENTATION

The collaborative project between CSS and DCFS to serve relative caregivers is integrated into the AAA's full network of services for persons age 60 and above and includes integrated care management and respite care, the most critically needed services. In the collaborative project, existing CSS/AAA service providers have the ability to specifically target these services to older adult caregivers of minor children. In this regard, DCFS relative caregivers who meet the age and service area criteria will be able to access the AAA network of services.

To enhance access, CSS and DCFS staff members have developed an eligibility assessment tool for use by DCFS. The tool will enable DCFS staff to determine eligibility for Family Caregiver Support services and identify the services most needed by the relative caregiver. In addition, the eligibility assessment tool will facilitate direct referral of **eligible** relative caregivers to a specific Integrated Care Management (ICM) agency. The ICM agency will then perform a complete assessment, develop a care plan for the relative caregiver and assist the relative caregiver by arranging for needed services.

NEXT STEPS

As a result of the collaboration between CSS and DCFS, mechanisms are being developed to collect data, track clients and monitor quality across departments and design measurable outcomes. These features will enhance the project by providing an accurate assessment of the overall quality and effectiveness.

Implementation of the Kinship Care Collaboration Project between CSS and DCFS will begin July, 2002. After a six-month service delivery period, the project will be reassessed in January, 2003, by representatives from both departments.

Should you have any questions about this memorandum, please feel free to contact me at (213) 738-2617, or Anita Bock, Director of DCFS at (213) 351-5600. In addition, your staff may contact Mike Earley, Assistant Director of CSS/Aging and Adult Services Branch at (213) 738-2645, or Madeline Jackson, Manager, Children and Family Services / Kinship Care Services, at (323) 290-8700.

c: David E. Janssen
Violet Varona-Lukens
Anita M. Bock